



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith  
Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 25, 2016*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 25, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 55°F in the morning to 64°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with digging a trench near the Tide Gates, building brick columns at the boat ramp, cement filling for the walking path near the Pump House and on both Peninsulas, installation of oak trees on the north side of the Basin, and spreading of soil along the west side of the West Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:25 am. Biological monitoring begins. A Bufflehead is wading in the Central Basin. Several Gulls and an American Crow fly overhead. A Yellow-rumped Warbler can be heard near the Central Basin.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consisted of current and last week's wildlife observations, paying special attention to Monarchs, and a reminder to clean up and debris that has

accumulated throughout the work day.

7:10 am. Crew begins work. Planting continues on the Northwest Peninsula, soil spreading begins on the west bank of the West Basin, three American Crows are perched on a light post in the construction parking lot.

7:31 am. Two American Coots and the Bufflehead are in the East Basin. A worker begins watering the plants on the Northeast Peninsula. Crews begin to fill a truck with the contaminated soil from the northern stockpiles for disposal. The installation of scaffolding for the walls near the Stormwater Outfall continues.

7:44 am. Several Yellow-rumped Warblers can be heard in the trees near the Pump House. An Anna's Hummingbird is spotted flying around the same trees.

7:57 am. Two Ring-billed Gulls fly overhead due north. Two waterfowl fly out of the basin. Trench digging begins near the Tide Gates. Three Western Gulls fly north. A Black Phoebe is perched in the mud near the Stormwater Outfall.

8:23 am. A Western Gull is perched in a light post on Washington. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree near the Pump House. A Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence in the Southeast Channel.

8:36 am. The American Coots are in the West Basin south of the Berm.

9:46 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the Southeast Channel Delta. An American Crow is perched on a utility pole along the bike path.

10:21 am. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is perched in the tree near the Tide Gates. A Dark-eyed Junco is foraging on the ground nearby. A Savannah Sparrow is spotted moving between branches on the tree by the tide gates then flies west.

10:32 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies into the Basin from the south and forages along the bank of the East Basin. Two Anna's Hummingbirds fly out of the trees by the bike path and head east. Another Yellow-Rumped Warbler is perched on a wooden stake in the Southeast Channel then flies into the trees behind the Pump House. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree nearby.

10:47 am. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is feeding in the staged plants near the East Basin. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Stormwater Outfall.

10:57 am. An American Crow is perched in a palm tree on Washington.

11:14 am. A Yellow Sulphur Butterfly is seen near the trees by the Tide Gates.

11:20 am. An American Crow chases a Belted Kingfisher over the Basin. The Belted Kingfisher retreats in

Mr. Rick Sun  
January 25, 2016  
Page 3

the pines south of the Central Basin then flies across the East Basin to perch on the power lines. A flock of Rock Pigeons flies over Admiralty Way.

11:40 am. A Townsend's Warbler flies into the pines next to the tide gates.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:36 pm. A House Sparrow is in the bushes near the Construction Trailer. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake.

12:47 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is standing along the south bank of the East Basin while a Dark-eyed Junco is in the mud of the Basin. A Black Phoebe flies from the south bank of the East Basin and perches on a wooden stake toward the north bank.

12:55 pm. The two American Coots swim out of the Southeast Channel into the East Basin.

1:02 pm. A Snowy Egret flies into the Basin and lands in the Southeast Channel by the boat ramp. A cement truck is filling the scaffolding on the Northeast Peninsula.

1:13 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in the staged oaks at the Northwest Peninsula.

1:24 pm. A Monarch Butterfly is seen flying over the walkway by the Tide Gates and lands on the pine tree nearby.

1:41 pm. A Western Gull flies over the Basin heading west.

2:01 pm. A Townsend's Warbler perches on a wooden stake beneath the pines near the Tide Gates. Two Anna's Hummingbirds fly past.

2:15 pm. Workers fill the path behind the Pump House with cement. A Black Phoebe is in the Stormwater Outfall.

2:44 pm. A group of Western and Ring-billed Gulls flies over the trees by the Tide Gates. An Anna's Hummingbird perches on the pine nearest to the Tide Gates.

2:55 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is flying between the two pines south of the Central Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is in a tree behind the Pump House.

3:12 pm. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler flies into the pine near the East Basin. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the East Basin.

3:20 pm. A Black Phoebe is in the mudflats of the West Basin.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

A Savannah Sparrow was spotted. However, it was not determined if it was a Belding's subspecies.

One monarch butterfly was observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Activity over the last three working days had decreased dramatically. The wildlife is calm in the early morning, and becomes active around 9:00 am.
3. One Monarch Butterfly and one Yellow Sulphur were observed today. The butterflies seem to come out with warmer temperatures.
4. The tide gates were not opened today. Without the flushing of water through the Basin, floating algae significantly increased.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 25, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 25, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual in the Southeast Channel
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	One individual in a pine tree
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	Two individuals throughout basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	One individual perched on tree and powerlines
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	One individual in the basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	One to three individuals under pines



*Figure 1 - Central Basin facing north*





*Figure 2 - Central Basin water level*



*Figure 3 - Central basin with oak trees*





*Figure 4 - Coastal salt marsh mix in Northwest Peninsula*



*Figure 5 - Coastal salt marsh mix on Northeast Peninsula*





*Figure 6 - Oak trees in East Basin*



*Figure 7 - Staged oaks on West Basin*





*Figure 8 - Water level in West Basin*





*Figure 9 - West Basin facing north*



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 26, 2016*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 26, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 45°F in the morning to 64°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with backfilling the trench near the Tide Gates leading to scaffolding for a future wall, building brick columns at the boat ramp and near the Pump House, installation of oak trees on the north side of the Basin, and spreading of soil along the west side of the West Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. A Bufflehead is wading in the Central Basin. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers and an Anna's Hummingbird can be heard in the trees behind the Pump House. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the center of the East Basin. Two American Coots are in the West Basin. Several Gulls fly north overhead.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consisted of current wildlife observations, a

notice to landscapers to be cognizant of hummingbirds when planting the oak trees, and paying special attention to Monarchs, highlighting the sighting of the previous day.

7:15 am. Crew begins work. Backfilling near the tide gates and soil spreading along the west bank of the West Basin continue. Planting of the oak trees resumes from yesterday and the brick layers are working near the Southeast Channel.

7:30 am. A Western Gull is perched on a light post on Admiralty Way before flying south. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak tree near the Northwest Peninsula. An American Crow is perched on a powerline pole near the Construction Trailer. There is a lot of activity of Gulls, Crows, and Pigeons near the Parking Lot, the powerlines nearby, and on the roof of the Killer Café.

7:53 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is seen flying between trees by the bike path. An American Crow is perched on a light post near the boat ramp.

8:03 am. A Black Phoebe perches between stakes of the silt fence along the Southeast Channel. An Anna's Hummingbird flies into the Southeast Channel and back into the eucalyptus tree.

8:30 am. Several Yellow-rumped Warblers fly out of the trees behind the Pump House and perch on the silt fence and roof of the Pump House before returning to the trees.

8:56 am. Two Anna's Hummingbirds chase each other out of the pines south of the Central Basin. The American Coots and Bufflehead are in the West Basin.

9:03 am. The Bufflehead flies out of the Basin and towards the marina. Two American Crows are perched on the parapet wall west of the West Basin.

9:20 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the West Basin mudflat. Workers begin to remove the privacy fence along Admiralty Way.

9:39 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula. Workers are now planting the trees along the Central Basin.

9:51 am. Several House Sparrows are perched in the palms along Washington. A Black Phoebe is foraging in the mud of the East Basin near the Stormwater Outfall.

10:05 am. A Yellow-Rumped Warbler is foraging along the East Basin bank. A California Gull flies overhead.

10:12 am. A Say's Phoebe flies into the Southeast Channel and perches on the silt fence. Workers begin to fill the walking path along Admiralty Way.

10:28 am. An Anna's Hummingbird perches on the pine next to the Tide Gates.

10:37 am. A Townsend's Warbler flies into the pine tree next to the Tide Gates.

10:45 am. Two House Sparrows forage underneath bushes near the Construction Trailer. Landscapers stage plants along the parapet wall of the West Basin. The House Sparrows join two others a few feet away.

10:50 am. A Cabbage White Butterfly is seen flying between the small herbs near the Construction Trailer.

11:06 am. The American Coots are in the East Basin. Workers continue building brick columns along the bike path.

11:16 am. Anna's Hummingbirds are heard in the trees behind the Pump House. Two Anna's Hummingbirds fly out to the Southeast Channel and head north.

11:26 am. A Western Gull flies over the basin but does not land. Two Anna's Hummingbirds and a Townsend's Warbler are in the pines next to the Tide Gates.

11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

1:00 pm. A House Sparrow and two White-crowned Sparrows are flying between bushes near the Construction Trailer. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

1:16 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree behind the Pump House. The American coots are wading near the boat ramp.

1:29 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies in from Admiralty Way and perches on the safety fencing around the pines near the Tide Gates. An Anna's Hummingbird perches on a branch nearby.

1:52 pm. A Ring-billed Gull flies overhead toward the marina. Scaffolding construction begins near the Tide Gates.

2:12 pm. Two Townsend's Warblers are in the tree next to the Tide Gates.

2:19 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on an oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

3:00 pm. Workers begin to replace the privacy fence along Admiralty Way.

3:11 pm. A Dark-eyed Junco is perched on the potted plants near the Parking Lot. Two Western Gulls fly south overhead.

3:28 pm. A Western Gull flies south over the Basin. Two Rock Pigeons circle over the Parking Lot.

3:38 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is foraging through the west bank of the west Basin. A Black Phoebe lands nearby.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 4:00pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. A Cabbage White Butterfly was seen near the West Basin. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is light in the early morning, and increases around 8:00 am.
3. One Cabbage White Butterfly was observed today. The butterflies seem to come out with warmer temperatures.
4. The tide gates were not opened today. Without the flushing of water through the Basin, floating algae significantly increased.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.



**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 26, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 26, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	Two individuals throughout basin
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	One individual in the basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	One to three individuals under pines
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	One individual in the Southeast Channel
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals in the palms and along the West Basin bank
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Two individuals near the Construction Trailer



*Figure 1 - Central Basin with oak trees planted*



*Figure 2 - West Basin oak trees planted*



## **Memorandum**

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 27, 2016*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## **Introduction**

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 27, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were partly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from 50°F in the morning to 63°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with scaffolding and cement filling near the Tide Gates, installation of oak trees on the north side of the Basin, and spreading of soil along the west side of the West Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## **Biologist's Field Log**

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrived on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. One American Coot is in the West Basin. Yellow-rumped Warblers can be heard in the trees behind the Pump House. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Stormwater Outfall. Several Gulls fly north overhead.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consisted of current wildlife observations, a notice to landscapers to be cognizant of hummingbirds when planting the oak trees and pay special attention to the presence of Monarchs. There was also a reminder to clean up trash in work area

and to remember to wear proper PPE.

7:10 am. Crew begins work. Crews begin to take down privacy fence along Admiralty Way. Scaffolding continues for the wall behind the Tide Gates. Leveling and grading continues for walkway along Admiralty Way.

7:26 am. An Anna's Hummingbird flies out of a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

7:39 am. Two American Crows are perched in the eucalyptus tree behind the Pump House. Two Anna's hummingbirds chase each other in the trees.

7:50 am. A Black Phoebe flies out of the Southeast Channel and perches on a chimney behind the boat ramp. Six Canada Geese are wading in the East Basin before flying northwest.

8:04 am. A second American Coot is in the Basin. The two coots both wade together in the West Basin near the Tide Gates.

8:34 am. Two American Crows are perched on the powerlines near the Parking Lot. A Western Gull flies into the Central Basin and begins to wade. A Heermann's Gull flies overhead.

9:13 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages in the mud in the East Basin. Workers clean up the area north of the East Basin.

9:31 am. Several House Sparrows are perched in the palms along Admiralty Way. Workers begin planting the coastal salt march mix in the Western Basin. A Black Phoebe forages along the edge of the mudflat in the West Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

9:45 am. Two Anna's Hummingbirds fly out of the pine next to the Tide Gates.

10:13 am. A Great Blue Heron flies over the West Basin toward the marina. Three American Crows fly into the tree near the Tide Gates. A Townsend's Warbler is in the same tree.

10:24 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the Central Basin mudflat.

10:39 am. A Rock Pigeon flies over the Basin toward the Killer Café. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake along the bank of the East Basin.

10:50 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the pine tree near the East Basin.

10:59 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in the trees along the bike path.

11:20 am. A pair of Anna's Hummingbirds chatter in the pine near the Tide Gates.

11:30 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake on the southern bank of the East Basin.



11:45 am. Crew breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:43 pm. A Black Phoebe is foraging in the mud on the south side of the Central Basin. The American Coots are wading near the boat ramp. Workers are installing the support posts for newly planted oak trees. The Landscape Architect is on site to approve the planting in the East Basin. A Black Phoebe perches on a bush near the Construction Trailer.

12:57 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is flying from branch to branch in the pine near the East Basin.

1:06 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

1:24 pm. A cement truck arrives to fill the scaffolding for the wall near the Tide Gates. An Anna's Hummingbird flies over and perches on the pine near the Tide Gate.

1:39 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched in the pines south of the Central Basin.

1:49 pm. A Double-crested Cormorant is in the West Basin. The restroom service truck arrives on site.

2:10 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree by the bike path. Workers begin to replace the fence along Admiralty Way.

2:52 pm. A Western Gull and California Gull fly south overhead. A Black Phoebe is in the mudflat of the West Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the bushes by the Construction Trailer. An American Crow is perched on a light post in the Parking Lot.

3:00 pm. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers are in the pines near the East Basin.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies or other butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. The wildlife is calm in the early morning, and becomes active around 8:00 am.
3. The tide gates were not opened today. Without the flushing of water through the Basin, floating algae significantly increased.
4. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
5. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
6. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 27, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 27, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	One individual observed flying over the Basin
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin

Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	One individual in pine trees near Tide Gates
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals in the palms and along the West Basin bank
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual swimming in the West Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	One individual observed flying over the Basin
Canada Goose	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Six individuals shortly wading in the East Basin before flying east



Figure 1 - Planting of coastal salt marsh mix in West Basin



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 28, 2016*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 28, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 44°F in the morning to 63°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with scaffolding near the Tide Gates, grading for the walking path along Admiralty Way, the measuring of fencing for the parapet wall in the West Basin by Fence Corps, installation of costal salt marsh mix on the north side of the West Basin, and spreading of soil along the west side of the West Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. Two American Coots are in the West Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is heard in the tree near the bike path. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Stormwater Outfall. Several Gulls fly north overhead.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consists of a summary of current wildlife observations, a notice to landscapers to be cognizant of hummingbirds when planting the oak trees,

and to pay special attention to Monarchs. There was also a reminder to clean up trash in work area and to remember to wear proper PPE.

7:10 am. Crew begins work. Crews begins to take down privacy fence along Admiralty Way for the grading of the walking path. Scaffolding continues for the wall behind the Tide Gates. Planting continues on the West Basin.

7:22 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the powerlines near the Construction Trailer.

7:40 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak tree on the Northwest Peninsula before flying west, then comes back. A second Anna's Hummingbird perches on a nearby oak tree.

7:48 am. An American Crow walks around the Northwest Peninsula. Two more American Crows are in the Central Basin mudflat.

8:03 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is seen flying over the bike path. A Black Phoebe is perching between wooden stakes in the East Basin.

8:14 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is flying between the palm trees along Admiralty Way.

8:40 am. The Tide Gates are opened.

8:54 am. A Black Phoebe is perched on the silt fence by the West Basin.

9:09 am. A Black Phoebe is flying around the bank of the East Basin. Another Black Phoebe flies nearby and is chased away.

9:18 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out of the pine near the East Basin and heads toward the bike path. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages along the bank of the East Basin.

10:20 am. Three to four Black Phoebes fly along the bank of the East Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is on the bank of the Southeast Channel. A Say's Phoebe is perched on the silt fence in the Southeast Channel.

10:47 am. An Anna's Hummingbird flies over the Southeast Channel. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the boat ramp. A second Yellow-rumped Warbler flies into the Southeast Channel.

11:14 am. A Belted Kingfisher perches on the powerlines above the West Basin.

11:30 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

11:45-12:45 Crew takes staggered breaks. The Biological monitor breaks from 12:00-12:45.

11:47 am. A California Gull is wading in the West Basin.



11:55 am. A Yellow Sulphur Butterfly is flying between the staged plants along the west side of the West Basin.

12:00 pm. A Say's Phoebe is perched on the powerlines near the Construction Trailer. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

12:05 pm. A Monarch Butterfly flies over the staged plants and into the parking lot.

12:30 pm. Work resumes.

12:51 pm. A Belted Kingfisher perches on the powerlines above the West Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged tree on the Northwest Peninsula.

1:00 pm. An American Crow is calling from the powerline post on the bike path. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the pines near the West Basin. A worker collects the trash along the silt fence throughout the Basin.

1:07 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is in a tree along the bike path. The American Coots are near the boat ramp feeding on algae.

1:18 pm. A Black Phoebe is perched on the wall of the Stormwater Outfall. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on the pine near the Tide Gates.

1:31 pm. Two Rock Pigeons fly over the Parking Lot.

1:37 pm. Five House Sparrows are in the bushes near the water tanks. Another is perched on the railing above. A Black Phoebe is perched on the privacy fence nearby.

2:06 pm. A Western Gull flies overhead. A Ring-billed Gull flies over toward the towers on Admiralty Way.

2:22 pm. A Townsend's Warbler is perched on the railing of the water tanks.

2:37 pm. The crew begins to replace the fence along Admiralty Way.

2:45 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is in the pines next to the East Basin.

2:54 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is foraging along the Bank of the Southeast Channel.

3:07 pm. A Townsend's Warbler is in the pine tree next to the Tide Gates.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

One Monarch Butterfly and one Yellow Sulphur Butterfly were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is light in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.
3. The tide gates were opened today. A slight increase in wildlife activity was observed with the higher water levels.
4. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
5. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
6. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; activity within the Basin itself increases with water level. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 28, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 28, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	One individual in pine trees near Tide Gates
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals in the bushes along the West Basin bank
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	One to two individuals perched on powerlines



*Figure 1 – West Basin coastal salt marsh mix planting*





## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith*  
*Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 29, 2016*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 29, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Christina M Gonzalez, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were clear. Temperatures ranged from 48°F in the morning to 65°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with scaffolding near the Tide Gates, grading for the walking path along Admiralty Way, installation of coastal sage and bluff scrub mix on the north side of the East and Central Basins, and spreading of soil along the west side of the West Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and a few crew members are waiting in the parking lot.

6:30 am. Biological monitoring begins. Three American Wigeons and two American Coots are in the Southeast Channel. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is heard in a tree near the bike path. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake near the Stormwater Outfall. House Sparrows fly between the pines along Washington. Several Gulls fly north overhead.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training begins. The training consists of a summary of current wildlife

observations, a notice to landscapers to be cognizant of hummingbirds when working near oak trees, and to pay special attention to Monarchs. There was also a reminder to clean up trash in work area and to remember to wear proper PPE.

7:15 am. Crew begins work. Crews begin to take down privacy fence along Admiralty Way for the grading of the walking path. Scaffolding continues for the wall behind the Tide Gates. Planting continues on the north side of the Basin.

7:29 am. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a staged oak on the Northwest Peninsula. Landscapers begin planting on the bank of the East Basin.

7:40 am. Two Anna's Hummingbirds are in the eucalyptus tree near the north end of the bike path. A California Gull flies overhead. Anna's Hummingbirds, American Crows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers are in abundance in the trees along the bike path.

8:00 am. A Black Phoebe perches on a wooden stake in the Southeast Channel. Another is perched in the East Basin. Two Rock Pigeons fly over the basin and back toward the towers on Admiralty Way.

8:40 am. Two Anna's Hummingbirds are in the pines next to the Tide Gates.

8:51 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler flies out of the Southeast Channel into the trees behind the Pump House. The restroom service truck arrives on site. A Black Phoebe is perched on a wooden stake in the East Basin. Another Black Phoebe is foraging near the Stormwater Outfall.

9:18 am. A Double-crested Cormorant feeds in the West Basin.

10:17 am. A Mourning Dove is perched in the pine tree near the Tide Gates. Several Anna's Hummingbirds fly around the same tree.

10:44 am. A Monarch Butterfly flies over the Stormwater outfall from the bike path. A Belted Kingfisher flies over the East Basin and perches on the Berm.

10:50 am. A Snowy Egret is foraging in the water in the Stormwater Outfall.

11:31 am. A Monarch Butterfly is on the pine tree by the Tide Gates.

11:30 am-12:45 pm. Crew takes staggered breaks. The Biological monitor breaks from 12:00-12:45.

11:45 am. A Black Phoebe and a Dark-eyed Junco forage along the staged plants along the West Basin. Two Rock Pigeons fly over the West Basin heading west.

12:45 pm. The Double-crested Cormorant is basking in the West Basin mudflat. A cement truck is preparing to fill the trench along the East Basin.

12:53 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages along the bank of the Southeast Channel. An Anna's Hummingbird is perched on a tree along the bike path. The Snowy Egret and the American Coots are near the boat ramp.

1:25 pm. A contractor is on site to do maintenance on the water tanks.

1:40 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird flies in the bushes near the Tide Gates.

2:30 pm. Crews begin sandblasting the concrete structures on the Northwest Peninsula

2:38 pm. Two Killdeer are foraging in the mud of the East Basin. Workers begin to reinstall the privacy fence.

2:46 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird is in the trees behind the Pump House.

2:56 pm. An American Crow calls from a powerline post on the bike path.

3:15 pm. A Black Phoebe is foraging in the mud next to the Stormwater Outfall. Three Western Gulls fly overhead.

3:30 pm. Work ends for the day. All workers are gone and the gate is closed at 3:45 pm.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Two Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any Monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am.

3. The Tide Gates were not opened today.
4. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, greater yellowlegs, and California gull. As winter continues, it is expected that winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
5. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
6. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 29, 2016.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 29, 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals; Common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
American Wigeons	<i>Anas americana</i>	The individuals in the basin in the early morning
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	One to two individuals perched on powerlines
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual in the West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual in the East Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	One individual in the pine tree next to the tide gates
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Two individuals in the mud of the East Basin
House Sparrows	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several flying between palms along Washington





*Figure 1 - New plantings along Central Basin*





*Figure 2 - New plantings along Northeast Peninsula*



*Figure 3 - New plantings on Central Basin*





*Figure 4 - New plantings on south side of Northeast Basin*





*Figure 5 - New Plantings along south side of Northeast Peninsula*